Legislation to regulate T.V. channels and information media

334. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a legislation to regulate the working of T.V. channels and information media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken note of the massive intrusion of media in the privacy of individuals and other entities under the facade of investigative journalism; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is considering a proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill in consultation with the concerned Ministries. A need has also been felt to consult the media in the matter.

(c) and (d) In so far as the print media are concerned, all such allegations of intrusion of the privacy of individuals would be considered by the Press Council of India, which is an independent body over which Government does not exercise control. Moreover, this issue is regulated on the basis of code of journalistic ethics. In so far as electronic media are concerned, such a specific code has not been formulated. The Government has set up a committee to formulate a programme code based upon the concept of self regulation by TV channels.

Increasing vulgarity and violence in T.V. channels

†335. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any plan to curb competition amongst private TV and news channels;

(b) whether in order to check increasing vulgarity and violence any code of conduct is proposed;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.